

COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES
790 Broad St.,
Newark 2, N. J.

REPORT OF TALK ON "LAND STEWARDSHIP IN RECREATION AND GROUP WORK AGENCIES"

BY

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The National Recreation Association standard for land for recreational use in urban areas is one acre per 100 population. Based on the 1950 population of 418,000, Newark should have 4,380 acres or about 1/3 of the total city acreage. This standard is unrealistic for densely populated cities. New standards must be set up for urban cities with high density of population and limited land area.

Newark has the following public recreation acreage:

County Parks	756.7 acres	85%
City Parks	34.9	4
Board of Education Playgrounds	86.5	9
Housing Authority	<u>18.3</u>	<u>2</u>
	896.4 acres	100%

By any revised standard, Newark acreage would still be far too low.

Basic considerations in developing new recreation standards in high density areas:

1. Well supervised mass participation activities such as roller and ice skating, dancing, etc.
2. Facilities providing for active games with maximum participation, such as volley and basket ball, shooting baskets and paddle tennis.
3. Borders of recreation areas protected by decorative masonry and border plantings. Paved rather than turfed surfacing for play areas.
4. Activities suited for vacant street areas and odd corners.
5. Individuals learn to cooperate in large groups.
6. Availability of specialized cultural facilities of central city such as museum, zoos, opera, symphonies, theatre and spectator sports, not found in suburban communities.

What can be done in NEWARK?

1. Urban redevelopment for overall city plan.
Better use of land.
2. Escalator design for schools in central city, to allow more playground space. Using this type of design does not mean that less land should be bought, but that more land area on the site should be used for playground and landscaping.

1. Social agencies should plan for the best use of their land for their facilities.
4. Protection of city owned vacant land; there is about ten acres of tax abandoned land in its residential areas.
 - a. Large parcels should be developed for community use.
 - b. Small lots in residential areas could be used as "Tot Lots", leased to responsible community groups who will agree to supervise them. Lease subject to cancellation if neglected or become a source of delinquency.
5. Proceeds from sale of city owned lots in residential areas, at a fair market value not desirable for recreation, be set up in special fund to buy land near school or park for increased recreation area.